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botanists a number of very essential facts. The present "Notes" deal with four specimens of *Lepidodendron harcourtii* and *Halonias regularis*, which the author regards as specifically identical; and with a new genus of Cycadofilices to which he assigns the name of *Megaloxylon*, as represented by a single species, *M. scottii*.

D. P. P.

**Matonia pectinata.**<sup>1</sup>—In an important contribution to the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, which gives evidence of the most searching care, Mr. Seward selects *Matonia* as representing an isolated type of ferns requiring further examination anatomically, in order to determine its relations to the Cyatheaceæ and Gleicheniaceæ, toward which it has been customary to assign it an intermediate position. Mr. Seward concludes that while the genus must hold an independent position among ferns, its affinities are most nearly with those of the Cyatheaceæ. His studies of existing species are designed to have a direct bearing upon the geological history of the Matonineæ, and he therefore brings into comparison *Laccopteris* and *Matonidium* in particular; from all of which he concludes that *Matonia* represents the survival of a family of ferns now confined to a few localities in Borneo and the Malay Peninsula, and represented by two living species, which in Mesozoic time had a wide geographical range, being especially abundant in the European area during the Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous times. The apparent absence of the Matonineæ from Tertiary formations suggests that these forms reached their maximum development in the Mesozoic, and that toward the close of the Cretaceous a decided restriction in geographical range had developed.

D. P. P.

**Medullosa anglica.**<sup>2</sup>—Dr. Scott's important contributions to our knowledge of the Cycadofilices have been recently enlarged by the description of a new species of *Medullosa* to which he assigns the name of *M. anglica*. He points to the fact that several genera such as *Næggerathia*, *Medullosa*, *Cladoxylon*, *Lyginodendron*, *Heterangium*, and *Protopytis* are now to be grouped under Potonie's con-

<sup>1</sup> Seward, A. C. The Structure and Affinities of *Matonia pectinata*, R. Br., with Notes on the Geological History of the Matonineæ, *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, Ser. B, vol. cxc (1899), pp. 171.

<sup>2</sup> Scott, D. H. On the Structure and Affinities of Fossil Plants from the Palæozoic Rocks. III. *Medullosa anglica*, a new representative of the Cycadofilices, *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, Ser. B, vol. cxc (1899), pp. 81.

venient name of Cycadofilices; and also to the very important correlation of structures hitherto regarded as representing distinct organisms, but now known to be different members of plants belonging to the genus *Medullosa*.

The specimens of *M. anglica* studied were obtained from the colliery at Hough Hill, Stalybridge, and are of exceptional interest, not only as "being the first recorded British specimens of the genus," but "also from their geological horizon, which is considerably more ancient than that of the continental *Medulloseæ*." They are at the same time the most complete examples of the genus hitherto studied, and they thus furnish most important data with respect to our knowledge of the entire group. Although lacking in some of the most important structural characters (the fructification), the material furnishes further and important additions to our knowledge of the filicoid origin of the cycads.

D. P. P.